

Application No.: 10/606,376

Docket No.: JCLA11125

REMARKSPresent Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amano (JP 04033202A). The Office Action rejected claims 4-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano (JP 04033202A) in view of Goebel (US 2,625,646). Applicants have amended claims 13 to overcome the rejection. Applicants further newly added claim 16. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 4-16 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Objections and Rejections

The limitation added in claim 13 is as shown in the drawings of Figs. 7-9. The newly added claim 16 is as shown in Fig. 10.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 102(b) rejection of claims 13-15 because Amano. (JP 04033202A) does not teach every element recited in these claims.

In order to properly anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C 102, each and every element of claim in issue must be found, "either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference". "The identical invention must be shown in as complete details as is contained in the claim. Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F. 2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)." See M.P.E.P. 2131, 8th ed., 2001.

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The present invention is in general related a back light module as claims 13, 16 recite:

Claim 13 (A back light module, comprising:
a frame;
at least two U-shaped lamp tubes disposed inside the frame, *wherein the two adjacent U-shaped lamp tubes are respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame, and the corners of the two U-shaped lamp tubes are aligned and adjacent;* and
a diffusion plate positioned inside the frame above said lamp tubes.

Claim 16. A back light module, comprising:
a frame;
at least two U-shaped lamp tubes disposed inside the frame, wherein the two U-shaped lamp tubes are respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame, *and electrodes of the two U-shaped lamp tubes are at the center of the frame and face the bottom section of the frame underneath the lamp tubes;* and
a diffusion plate positioned inside the frame above said lamp tubes.

Amano fails to teach that the two adjacent U-shaped lamp tubes are respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame, and the corners of the two U-shaped lamp tubes are aligned and adjacent. In Amano's reference, the U-shaped lamps, as shown in Fig. 2, arranged in the frame 1 are not aligned to each other so that the corners 3a, 3b of the U-shaped lamps are not aligned and adjacent. Therefore, Amano does not teach every element recited in claim 13. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 patentably define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 14-15 patentably define over the prior art as well.

In addition, Amano also fails to teach that electrodes of the two U-shaped lamp tubes are at the center of the frame and face the bottom section of the frame underneath the lamp tube. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16 patentably define over the prior art references, and should be allowed.

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The back light module having at least two U-shaped lamp tubes respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame can be applied to a large size display panel. Since the U-shaped lamp tubes are positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame, the length of each lamp tube does not too long so that the lamp tube are not liable to break or crack.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 4-11 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano (JP 04033202A) in view of Goebel (US 2,625,646) and the rejection of claim 12 as being unpatentable over Amano, Goebel and further in view of Winston (US 6,335,999) because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by the Office Action.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), each of three requirements must be met. First, the reference or references, taken alone or combined, must teach or suggest each and every element in the claims. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to combine the references in a manner resulting in the claimed invention. Third, a reasonable expectation of success must exist. Moreover, each of the three requirements must "be found in the prior art, and not be based on applicant's disclosure." See M.P.E.P. 2143, 8th ed., February 2003.

The present invention is related a back light module as claim 4 recites:

Claim 4. A back light module, comprising:
a frame set comprising a plurality of frames;

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a plurality of lamp tube modules, wherein *each lamp tube module is disposed inside one of the frames correspondingly and comprises at least two U-shaped lamp tubes*; and a diffusion plate positioned inside the frame set above said lamp tubes.

The Office Action points out that Amano does not disclose a plurality of frames. However, Goebel also fails to teach or suggest that a frame set comprising a plurality of frames. Hence, Goebel cannot cure the deficiencies of Amano. In Fig. 21 of Goebel's reference, the fixture units A, B, C, D can be arranged as different arrangements as shown in Figs. 22-28. However, Goebel does not discloses a plurality of frames, and each lamp tube module is disposed inside one of the frames correspondingly and comprises at least two U-shaped lamp tubes as claim 4 recites.

Because the back light module of the present invention has a plurality of the lamp tube modules in the frames, the lamp tube modules can be positioned in a multitude of ways and thus increasing the number of possible design choice. Moreover, each damaged lamp tube module can be replaced individually because each lamp tube module and its frame can be replaced individually from the bottom of the back light module without moving the diffusion plate.

Therefore, Amano in view of Goebel does not teach or suggest that the back light module has a frame set having a plurality of frames, and each lamp tube module is disposed inside one of the frames correspondingly so that the references combined do not each and every element in the claim 4. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 4 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 5-12 patently define over the prior art as well.

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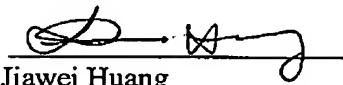
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 4-16 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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